

Additional Information Related to 1969 College Paper by Bob Ficklin about Four Fairbury Victorian Era Houses

By: Dale C. Maley

Date: June 30, 2024

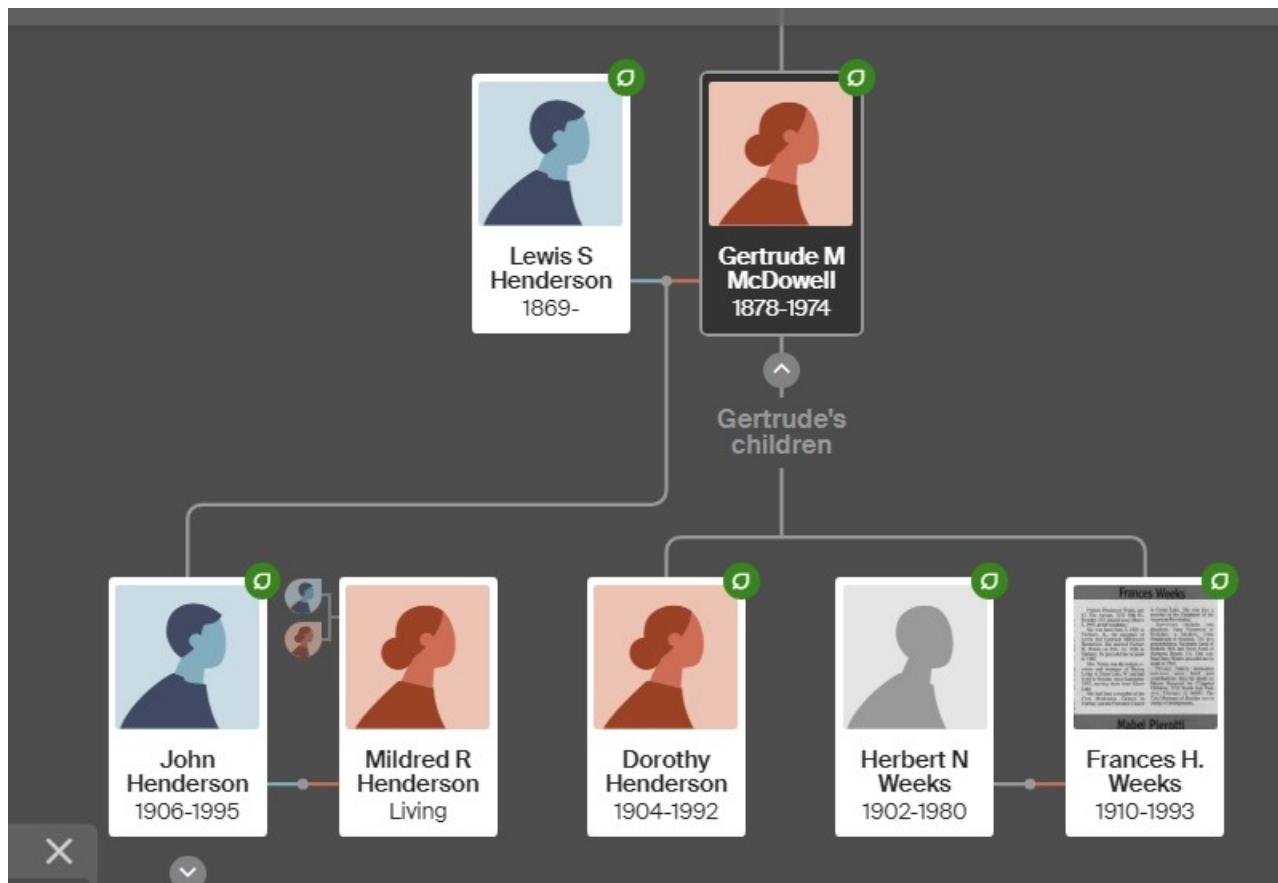
The 1969 College Paper

Bob Ficklin gave me a paper copy of his 1969 college paper. I scanned it in and created a PDF file of his paper and the additional photographs of the four homes he reviewed.

Not Familiar with Henderson House

I have studied the other three houses (Thomas A. Beach House or James House, The McDowell House or Ramsey House, and the Dominy House or Jenssen House). I had never heard of the Henderson House.

Bob Ficklin mentioned he interviewed Dorothy Henderson in 1969. I found out her mother was a McDowell, so I added her to my McDowell family tree in Ancestry.com.



In the U.S. Census, I found she lived at 207 W. Maple Street in Fairbury. I also found her obituary in the January 15, 1992, Blade.

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Dorothy Henderson

FAIRBURY—Lifetime
Fairbury resident Dorothy
Henderson, 89, died at 2:45
p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, 1992.
She died at Marjorie
Fulton/Skilled Care Unit of
Fairbury Hospital, Fairbury, of
which she was a resident.

She was born Nov. 30,
1902, Fairbury, daughter of
Lewis S. and Gertrude
McDowell Henderson.

A memorial service will be
held at a later date. She will be
cremated. Duffy-Pils Memorial
Home, Fairbury, is in charge of
arrangements.

Surviving are one sister,
Frances H. Weeks, of
Greenlake, WI; one brother,
John T. Henderson, Huston,
TX. She was preceded in death
by her parents.

She was a member of the
Fairbury United Methodist
Church, the Pi Beta Phi and
the Chautauqua Literary and
Scientific Club, and a former

member of the Art Club of Fairbury.

She graduated from Fairbury Township High school and attended college in Virginia and the University of Minnesota.

She worked in the Registrars Offices of Northwestern University and was a former employee of Dalley Lumber Co. of Fairbury and at the Livingston County Court House.

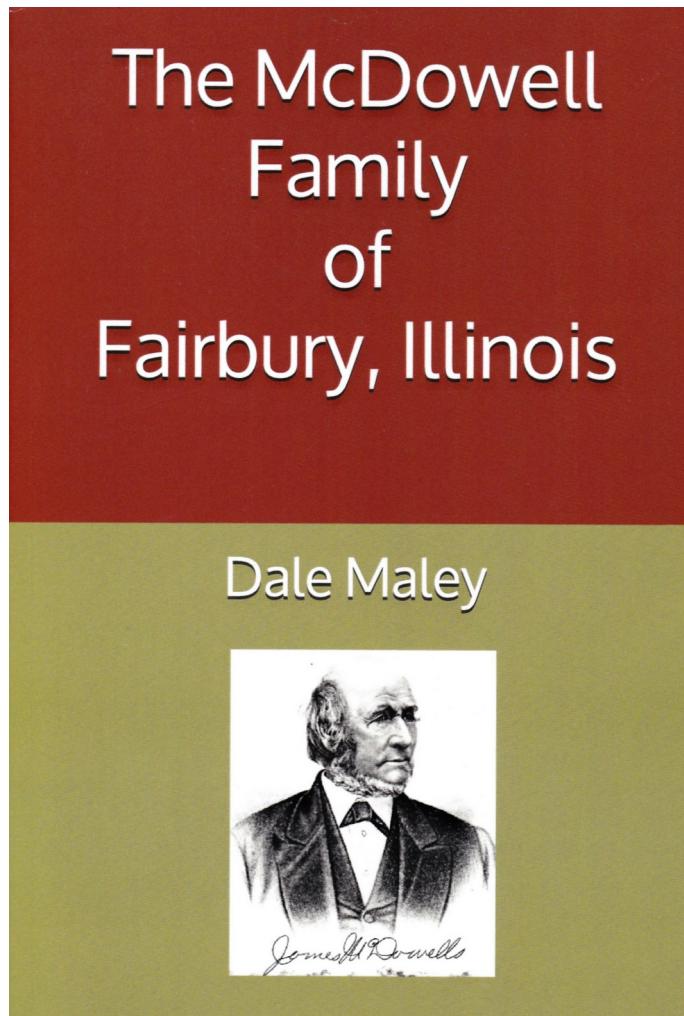
Memorials may be made to the Fairbury United Methodist Church.

Using Google maps, I found a current photo of her house.



My McDowell Family book

I wrote this book a couple or years ago.



I checked my book, and I have one reference to Dorothy Henderson.

Gertrude married Lewis Henderson, October 19, 1901, and their children are Dorothy Louise, born Nov. 30, 1902; John Thomas, born Sept. 2, 1906, and Frances, born June 2, 1909.

When I wrote the book, I did not realize Dorothy's historic home was still standing in Fairbury.

This book has extensive materials about Judge Woodford G. McDowell, who built the Ramsey House, as Bob Ficklin calls it in his paper.

Street Addresses for 4 Homes Covered in Ficklin Paper

James House	402 E. Hickory
Ramsey House	102 E. Maple
Henderson House	207 W. Maple
Jenssen House	310 S. Third

My 2021 Blade Article about the Dominy Houses

A copy is shown below.

Title: The Dominy Homes

By: Dale C. Maley

The Dominy family was one of the most influential families in early Fairbury. The story of this family began with Lorenzo Beach Dominy being born in 1844 in Ohio. He was the son of Ezra Dominy and Hester A. Beach. When Lorenzo was just 16 months old, his father died of typhoid fever at the age of 25. Only four days after his father died, his mother also died of typhoid fever at the age of 20.

Infant Lorenzo Beach Dominy was raised by his maternal grandfather, Dr. Lorenzo Beach. Dr. Beach was born in New Haven, Vermont, and attended local schools. When Dr. Beach was 15 years old, he went with his older brother Uri Beach and settled in Ohio. He studied medicine with Dr. Carter of Urbana, Ohio, and started his medical practice in Ohio.

In that era, doctors had to travel by horseback to see their patients. Dr. Beach found his income was limited because of the excessive travel times. In about 1833, Dr. Beach switched careers and became a leading merchant in Darby County, Ohio. He became one of the largest landowners in that area. In 1853, when land values rose to \$35 per acre, Dr. Beach sold out and moved to Fairbury.

Congress passed a law that granted farmland to military veterans of the War of 1812. Most of these veterans did not want to move to swampy Fairbury, so they sold their land patents for about 30 cents an acre. In the 1850s, land could be also be purchased from the federal government for \$2.50 per acre. Dr. Beach purchased several thousand acres in the 1850s in Livingston County using a combination of land patents and cash.

Lorenzo B. Dominy started out farming in the Fairbury area. He married Phoebe Ann Curl in 1864 in Fairbury. In 1870, when Lorenzo B. Dominy was 26 years old, he began his business career with Thomas A. Beach as a hardware merchant. Thomas A. Beach was a Fairbury businessman and banker. He built the "Lion House" on east Hickory Street that has two concrete lions in the front yard. Thomas A. Beach was the wealthiest citizen of Fairbury, with a net worth of over \$50 million in today's dollars.

After being in the hardware business for three years, L. B. Dominy sold this business. He then helped found the banking company of Bartlett, Beach, and Dominy. Cicero

Comstock Bartlett was the brother of the wife of Thomas A. Beach. In 1877, C. C. Bartlett withdrew from the bank due to poor health. In 1893, Thomas A. Beach retired. Lorenzo B. Dominy continued the bank. In 1901, Lorenzo added his son-in-laws Grant Yates McDowell and William R. Bane (1863-1917) to the bank.

Lorenzo and Phoebe Dominy had five children. Their only son, Charles L. Dominy, died at seven months of age. Their four daughters were Jenny Curl Dominy, Jesse Beach Dominy, Lizzie Hester Dominy, and Hazel Dominy. Jenny and Jesse Dominy were twin sisters.

According to the Blade, L. B. Dominy built a new house, and it was almost completed in June of 1882. Then about three years later, in December of 1885, the Blade reported that L. B. Dominy was now residing in his new palatial residence. Unfortunately, there are no known records that document the street addresses of these two homes. Census data indicates the 1885 new house is the one where L. B. Dominy lived many years at the northwest corner of Third Street and Route 24. The other 1882 new home could have been just west of this home at 108 West Oak Street.

Lorenzo B. Dominy died in 1902. In the 1930 Census, Mrs. Dominy's daughter Jennie McDowell and her family had moved into her house. Phoebe Dominy died in 1932.

The first daughter to marry was Lizzie Dominy. In 1889, she married William R. Bane in Fairbury. In the 1910 U.S. Census, William and Lizzie Bane lived at 108 West Oak Street, next door to her parents. William Bane died in 1917, and Lizzie Bane passed away in 1955. Eventually, the house was torn down and became a parking lot for Paternoster Ford. In recent years, Paternoster Ford was torn down, and today this site is occupied by the Family Dollar Store.

The second daughter to marry was Jenny Curl Dominy in 1890. She married Grant Yates McDowell. In both the 1900 and 1910 U.S. Census, they were living on Elm Street. In the 1920 Census, they were living at 203 West Elm Street. The large house they lived in was eventually torn down, and today it is a brick condominium complex.

L. B. Dominy died in 1902. By 1930, his widow, Phoebe Dominy, was 86 years old. Sometime between 1920 and 1930, G. Y. McDowell and his family moved in with Phoebe at her home at 310 South Third Street. Phoebe McDowell died in 1932 at the age of 88. Jenny McDowell died in 1947, and G. Y. McDowell died in 1955. The home then underwent a significant restoration by Betty Nussbaum. This house is currently known as the Hoffman House.

The third daughter to marry was Jesse Beach Dominy. In 1893, she married Herbert Powell. Mr. Powell was also a Fairbury banker. They initially lived in a house that Herbert owned at the southwest corner of Third Street and Route 24. In May of 1900, the Blade reported that Mr. Powell moved his old house to other lots he owned on Chestnut Street. Mr. Powell then built a beautiful new home at 401 South Third Street. Herbert Powell died in 1940.

The large Powell home was eventually converted to the Mowry Funeral Home. It underwent subsequent conversions to the Newland Funeral Home and the Stiver Funeral

Home in 1962. After Stiver's built a new funeral home on North First Street, the old Powell home was torn down, and a brick apartment building was constructed on that site.

In 1904, Mrs. L. B. Dominy announced she would build what is now the Dominy Memorial Library. She created it in honor of her deceased husband and her daughter Hazel Dominy that died at age 17. The Hoffman House and the Dominy Memorial Library are two reminders of the Dominy family's significant contributions to Fairbury.

Other Related Information

I have written over 280 articles for the Fairbury Blade and/or FairburyNews.Net, so I can not easily remember all these articles. I have also written over 20 Fairbury history books.

The information above is only the items that come quickly to my mind. I'm sure I have done many other writings related to these four houses.